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and his Memoirs must always be the principal authority for the facts of Scott's brilliant and laborious career. In the exceeding richness and abundance of its biographical details, nothing more could be desired; and its materials are grouped with the judgment and good taste which would naturally have been expected from such a man as Lockhart. If we compare the work with any of the more recent lives of Scott's contemporaries, the worth of Mr. Lockhart's labors, and the comparative excellence of his Memoirs, will be at once recognized. Not one of the great English poets of the nineteenth century was so fortunate in his biographer; and certainly not one of them left behind him a more copious or more valuable collection of letters and journals for the illustration of his life. The edition of Mr. Lockhart's work now before us is superior to every former edition published in this country, and is not surpassed by any Scottish edition which has fallen under our notice.

7. — 1. *Cotton: an Account of its Culture in the Bombay Presidency, prepared from Government Records and other authentic Sources, in Accordance with a Resolution of the Government of India.* By WALTER R. CASSELS. Bombay: Printed by Order of Government. 1862. 4to. pp. x. and 347.
2. *Cotton Hand-Book for Bengal: being a Digest of all Information available from official Records and other Sources on the Subject of the Production of Cotton in the Bengal Provinces.* Compiled by J. G. MEDLICOTT, B. A. Published in Accordance with the Resolution of his Excellency the Governor-General in Council, dated 22d July, 1861. Calcutta: Savielle and Cranenburgh, Printers. 1862. 4to. pp. xix. and 485.

FOR the preparation of these two monographs we are indebted to the increased interest in the growth of Indian cotton which was aroused by the breaking out of the rebellion in our Southern States. Shortly after the news of the attack on Fort Sumter was received in India, measures were taken by the government for the immediate publication of all the information in their possession bearing on the general subject of the raising of cotton, to be comprised in three independent volumes, treating severally of the provinces directly subordinate to the Governor-General in Council, and of the two Presidencies of Bombay and Madras. The first two were issued with great promptitude, and are now before us; but the last volume has not yet been received in this country.

Of the two books now published, the volume by Mr. Cassels is much

the abler and more elaborate. It comprises the most thorough and complete account of the history and present condition of the cotton culture in the Presidency of Bombay which has ever been published, though the author modestly states in his Preface that it might have been made more exhaustive in its details if greater time could have been allowed for its preparation, and that some topics have not been considered, because the libraries of Bombay do not contain the books necessary for their proper elucidation. In the minuteness and copiousness of its statistical tables, and in the excellence of its maps and diagrams, however, the volume leaves very little to be desired; and at the same time the materials on which it is based are of the most trustworthy kind, and have been systematically arranged with great care. It is divided into twenty chapters. Of these the first three are somewhat general in their character, and relate to the early history of the cotton culture in India, and to the first attempts to introduce the cultivation of exotic cotton. The next eleven chapters trace the history of the experimental culture of foreign cotton in the various districts of the Presidency, and in the neighboring states which are most closely connected with it, from 1848 down to the present time. Following this survey are three chapters treating of "The Soils, Climate, and Agriculture of India," of the effects of early planting on the production of cotton in India, and some other connected topics, and of the preparation of the cotton for the European market. The next two chapters are on the roads and other means of intercommunication, and on the land tenure and assessment. The last chapter sums up the results of the whole course of experiments for the introduction of exotic cotton into this part of India; and from this summary we take the following paragraphs, in which Mr. Cassels explicitly states the results reached by his investigation of the subject:—

"Exotic cotton cannot be successfully cultivated on a large scale in the Bombay Presidency, except in a limited portion of its southern districts.

"Indian cotton may be improved in cleanness, and somewhat reduced in cost, but the general characteristics of the staple will not be materially altered.

"In so far as this quality of cotton is serviceable to the manufacturers of England, India can compete with America; but if a finer description be required, India cannot adequately supply it.

"Unless, therefore, such alterations in machinery can be devised as may render the manufacturer indifferent to length and fineness of staple,—and of the probability of this others must judge,—India is not likely to replace the United States.

"It seems evident, then, that Indian cotton must continue to hold a subordinate place in European markets, and that there is a point at which its competition with other growths entirely ceases."

It is to be observed, however, that these unfavorable statements relate only to the districts included within the Presidency of Bombay, though it is also true that most of the Indian cotton is produced in these districts. For the manner in which Mr. Cassels has performed his task he is entitled to the highest praise; and this commendation applies to every part of the work.

Equal praise can scarcely be bestowed on Mr. Medlicott's volume. His materials have been arranged in a much less satisfactory manner than that adopted by Mr. Cassels; and he has nowhere distinctly stated the conclusions to which he has been led by his investigation of the subject. Near the beginning of the volume, however, he hazards the opinion, "that Bengal could produce cotton for exportation to almost any desired extent, and of a quality which would, under favorable conditions, adapt itself to the requirements of the English market." But he also admits that the ground is "more profitably employed in raising other crops," and it is known that Bengal produces but a very small proportion of the cotton used in that part of India, and that the inhabitants find it cheaper to import English yarns and cloths than to raise cotton for home manufacture. Under these circumstances, and in view of the failure of the successive attempts to introduce the culture of exotic cotton, it seems doubtful whether a more favorable condition exists in Bengal than is to be found in Bombay. Still we should have been pleased to see a more explicit statement of Mr. Medlicott's views on this point.

His volume is divided into a brief Introduction and three Parts. The former treats of the past and present state of the Indian cotton trade, of its prospects, and of the circumstances which have caused its decline. The First Part comprises, under separate heads, all the accessible information in regard to the adaptation of every district in Bengal to the raising of cotton, and though often meagre and unsatisfactory in details, it shows that much labor has been bestowed on its preparation. The Second Part contains a narrative of the different attempts to introduce the cultivation of exotic cotton, and is, like the similar portions of the volume prepared by Mr. Cassels, a mere record of signal failures. The Third Part is devoted to scientific topics, and contains several papers on the chemistry of the cotton soils, and on other questions connected with the culture of the plant.